

APPLICANT(S): Meron, Gavriel et al.
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REMARKS

The present response is intended to be fully responsive to all points of objection and/or rejection raised by the Examiner and is believed to place the application in condition for allowance. Applicants assert that the present invention is new, non-obvious and useful. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the application is respectfully requested.

Status of Claims

Claims 1-50 are pending. Claims 1-50 have been cancelled and new claims 51-71 have been added to more clearly define what aspects of the invention are being claimed. In making these cancellations without prejudice, Applicants reserve all rights in these claims to file divisional and/or continuation patent applications.

Applicants respectfully assert that the amendments to the claims add no new matter.

Claim Rejections

In the Office Action, the Examiner provisionally rejected claims 1-50 under the judicially created doctrine of double patenting over claims 1-30 and 36-55 of copending U.S. application 2001/0035902 ("Iddan"). The Examiner rejected claims 1, 5, 6, 11-14, 23-31 and 36-36 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Gadzinski (US 2002/0103417). The Examiner rejected claims 2-4, 7-10, 15-22, and 32-35 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gadzinski as applied to claims 1, 12 and 29 and further in view of Alfano et al. (U.S. 6,240,312). The Examiner rejected claims 40-50 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gadzinski in view of Alfano.

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections of claims 1-50 over the above mentioned prior art. While not addressing the substance of the rejections of claims 1-50 in this paper, and reserving the right to submit these claims in future applications, Applicants submit that the above mentioned rejections are moot in light of the cancellation of Applicants' claims 1-50. As discussed below, Applicants' new claims 51-71 are patentable.

Thus Applicants request the Examiner to withdraw the rejections of claims 1-50 based on Iddan, Gadzinski and Alfano.

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New Claims

Applicants have added new claims 51-71.

Applicants' new claim 51 recites:

An in vivo device comprising:

a plurality of optical windows behind which are positioned, at least, an illumination source and an imager, said optical windows facing different directions.

Applicants' new claim 61 includes, inter alia, "a plurality of imagers facing different directions".

Applicant's new claim 63 recites, inter alia, "A method for in vivo imaging of a body lumen, the method comprising the steps of ... illuminating in vivo sites from behind at least two optical windows."

Applicant's new claim 68 recites:

An in vivo device comprising:

a plurality of illumination sources and a plurality of imagers;
and

a plurality of optical domes, behind each of which are positioned an illumination source and an imager, each of said optical domes facing opposite directions.

None of the prior art cited in the Examiner's rejections includes the limitations as described in new independent claims 51, 61, 63 or 68. For example, none of Iddan, Alfano or Gadzinski include "optical windows facing different directions", "a plurality of imagers facing different directions", "illuminating in vivo sites from behind at least two optical windows," or "a plurality of optical domes ... each of said optical domes facing opposite directions." For at least these reasons, Applicants submit that new independent claims 51, 61, 63 and 68 are allowable over the prior art of record.

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Each of new claims 52-60, 62, 64-67, and 69-71 depend, directly or indirectly, from one of independent claims 51, 61, 63 and 68, and therefore include the limitations of one of these claims. Therefore, new claims 52-60, 62, 64-67, and 69-71 are likewise allowable.

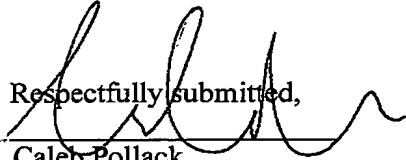
Conclusion

Applicants submit that, for at least the reasons presented above, Applicants' claims are patentable. Their allowance is respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner have any question or comment as to the form, content or entry of this Amendment, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number below. Similarly, if there are any further issues yet to be resolved to advance the prosecution of this application to issue, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned counsel.

No fees are believed to be due associated with this paper, however, if any such fee is due, please charge such fee to deposit account No. 05-0649.

Respectfully submitted,


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